CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 11, 2003.

Thomas M. Hardman
Attorney for Applicants

PATENT
Docket No. 3358.2.1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	Nielson et al. 10/733853	
Serial No.:	not yet assigned	
Filed:	December 11, 2003	Group Art Unit: not yet assigned
For:	LOW-VOLTAGE LIGHTING APPARATUS FOR SATISFYING AFTER-HOURS LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS, EMERGENCY LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS, AND LOW LIGHT REQUIREMENTS	
Examiner:	not yet assigned	

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(c)

Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants hereby petition to make the above-identified patent application special under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(c) and MPEP 708.02.

The invention in the above-identified patent application materially contributes to the more efficient utilization and conservation of energy resources. The invention relates to an energy-efficient lighting apparatus that provides sufficient illumination to satisfy after-hours lighting requirements, emergency lighting requirements, and/or low light requirements.

Embodiments of the lighting apparatus disclosed in the above-identified patent application utilize light-emitting diodes (LEDs). The use of LEDs to satisfy after-hours lighting requirements, emergency lighting requirements, and/or low light requirements may result in significant power savings as compared to presently available technology. For example, fluorescent lights are presently used to provide some or all of the aforementioned lighting. However, LEDs consume significantly less power than fluorescent lights. For example, the power consumption of an average fluorescent light bulb is 77-96 watts. In contrast, the power consumption of 80 LEDs is only approximately 8 watts. Accordingly, the LEDs in the disclosed lighting apparatus may be powered by a relatively small and inexpensive battery.

Some embodiments of the lighting apparatus disclosed in the above-identified application may easily and inexpensively be attached to existing light fixtures. Thus, existing light fixtures may be retrofit with the disclosed lighting apparatus in order to achieve the energy savings described above without incurring significant expense.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the requirements set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(c) and MPEP 708.02 have been satisfied. Applicants respectfully request that this application be granted special status for the purpose of accelerating examination.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 11, 2003

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